

The 2022 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

I am very much looking forward to our 2022 Annual Meeting which will be held at Croydon on Saturday the 19th of March 2022.

This will be a very special meeting for all of us prior to our 2022 MBF Festival finale to be held on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd July 2022 and I hope to be able to thank you all personally for how you have rallied round our Festival by organising fundraising events, or just turning up to support us.

Details of the Annual Meeting, along with how to register for the meeting, can be found on our web site <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/agm-2022.html>

With kind regards.

Ian N Clark, Provincial Grand Master



W.Bro. John Hardy's 122 Mile Walk



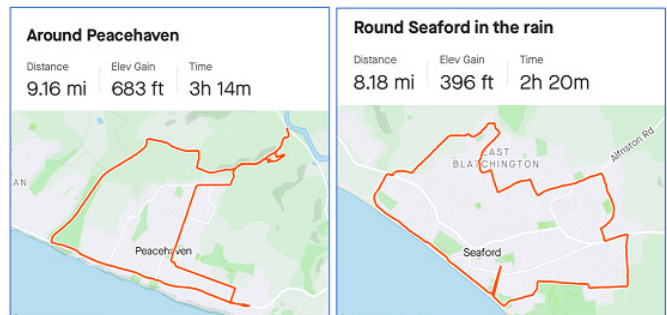
W.Bro. John Hardy is undertaking a series of walks in London, Surrey and Seaford between December 2021 and February 2022 to raise funds for the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival. The final walk will be from Mark Masons Hall in London to the Croydon Masonic Centre on Saturday 26th February 2022.

You can still support John by visiting: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/johnhardy1576>

We have been following John's walks on the Strava App

John said

The weather has been kind and the walking not too difficult. Having got this far I will keep going towards my 122-mile target.





News from around the Province

Weald of Surrey Lodge keep the Travelling Keystone

On Thursday 13th January 2022 our Editor thought he would go along to the Weald of Surrey Lodge No 1314 at Sutton to take photos of a raid on the Travelling Keystone.



VW.Bro. Chris Eley was invited to present a Grand Patron Gold award to the Worshipful Master thanking him and the Lodge for their magnificent support for our 2022 MBF Festival.



He was also invited to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to Brother Keith Jacobs who was Advanced at their meeting in October last year.

It was a shame that no Lodge had come along to claim the Travelling Keystone. W.Bro. David would not let Chris take it back to Richmond Lodge saying that '*it was not in accordance with his plans*'. This means that the Weald of Surrey Lodge will be parading the Travelling Keystone into Provincial Grand Lodge on the 19th of March.

After the Lodge was closed and the customary photos taken, the members of

Weald of Surrey Lodge retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal together.



A Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Chandrikant Sumari, and the minutes were confirmed. The Lodge was then closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Mark Lodge meeting.

The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Colin Smith. Bro. Chandrikant Sumari was declared elected as Worshipful Master and W.Bro. David Lawrence as Treasurer.



After the meal Shelley brought in a birthday cake to celebrate W.Bro. Jeff Flint's special birthday, and we all sang Happy Birthday to Jeff.



A Candidate for Lingfield Lodge

On Friday the 14th of January 2022 Lingfield Lodge No 1419 was honoured by the presence of W.Bro. Richard Knox, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and several Provincial Officers of the Year.



A Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the acting Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Christopher George, who welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Officers and wished them a most enjoyable afternoon.

W.Bro. Wally Maynard was declared Worshipful Commander and W.Bro. Alan Underhill as Treasurer for the ensuing year. The Lodge was closed, and after the customary photographs taken the Temple was re-arranged for the Mark meeting.

The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John R Beer, P.Prov.A.G.D.C. (Lon), who welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and offered him the gavel. W.Bro. Richard Knox and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley were saluted with five under the direction of W.Bro. Les Smith, Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. W.Bro. Richard said how pleased he was to be visiting Lingfield Lodge and how much he was looking forward to the meeting. He then introduced the Provincial team, most of whom had assisted by taking office in the Lodge, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair.



Next on the agenda was the Proclamation of W.Bro. John Raymond Beer as Worshipful Master. This was done W.Bro. Bob Soper, our Provincial Grand Organist, the Lodge Secretary.

The main item on the agenda was to ballot for and Advance Bro. Michael Gary Mills of St Cecilia Lodge No 6190, the Musicians Lodge. Brother Michael was advanced in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John Beer, ably assisted by the acting Senior Warden, W.Bro. Bob Soper.



Brother Michael was welcomed into the Order, and the Province of Surrey, by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. After the Lodge was closed the Brethren of Lingfield Lodge and their retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Nutfield Masonic Centre. In the reply to his toast, Bro. Michael said how pleased he was to have joined a Surrey Mark Lodge and that he was looking forward to being with everyone again soon.



A Special Welcome from Welcome Lodge

On Thursday 20th January 2022 our Provincial Grand Master made a special visit to Welcome Lodge No 1237. He was escorted by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Paul Wicking, GStwd.

A Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Simon McCarthy, who welcomed our Provincial Grand Master and other guests. After a short business meeting the Lodge was closed and the Temple rearranged for the Mark meeting.



The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Max Woodward, who welcomed our Provincial Grand Master and visitors, many of whom had taken office to assist the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master said the reason for his visit was to present a Grand Patron Gold MBF collarette to the Worshipful Master on behalf of the Lodge, thanking everyone for their magnificent contribution, especially considering the size of the Lodge.

The main item on the agenda was to ballot for Bro. James Anthony King of Rutlish Lodge of Master Masons.



VW.Bro. Chris Eley is a regular visitor to Rutlish Lodge, so when James asked Chris about the Mark Degree it wasn't long before a MEM form was signed.

VW.Bro. Chris was delighted to be asked to act as Senior Deacon as he was present when Bro. James was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Rutlish Lodge, and then presented him with his Grand Lodge Certificate. He also Exalted James into Rutlish Chapter and presented him with his Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate.

The ballot proved in his favour and Bro. James was Advanced as a Mark Master Mason in a truly memorable manner by the Worshipful Master and his officers.



After the Ceremony, the Worshipful Master welcomed Brother James into Welcome Mark Lodge; and our Provincial Grand Master welcomed him into the Order, and the Province of Surrey.

After the Lodge was closed and photos taken the members of the Provincial Executive present and past posed for a photo with our newly Advanced Brother inviting him along to our Provincial Meeting on the 19th of March where, along with other newly Advanced Brethren, he will be warmly received by our Provincial Grand Master.



We then retired to the bar for refreshments before going in the dining room to enjoy a most convivial meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.



The 40th Anniversary of Bond of Friendship Mark Lodge

On 15th January, exactly forty years to the day, Bond of Friendship Mark Lodge No 1575 celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The morning started with Bro Kevin Morrell and Bro Ian Holloway joining the Royal Ark Mariner degree. Unfortunately, the candidate for the Mark had to isolate due to Covid 19, but the lodge continued with its celebrations and were congratulated by W.Bro. Bill Barr, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, the guest of honour.



The only remaining founder, W.Bro. Charles Farrance, lives in Thailand, but sent his best wishes to all the brethren. The meeting was followed by an excellent Festive Board. The next meeting on the 7th of May will be a Double Advancement.

Article by Mike Neville

Our Provincial Grand Master Visits St Andrews Lodge

St Andrew's Lodge No 806 had some sixteen members present and several guests to greet our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark.



Our RAM meeting was short, but we took time to present to R.W.Bro. Clark a thousand-pound cheque to contribute to the M.B.F. Festival. Our Provincial Grand Master expressed his sincere thanks at the very generous contribution. The Worshipful Commander also commented on the fact that we had been a generous lodge during lockdown, donating several thousand pounds to local charities.

Even more pertinent because we were dispensing grants when in fact we had no income which we usually derive from raffles and alms etc. It was a big cheque too.... a display cheque from Lloyds which we obtained at no extra cost!

It got better in our Mark meeting. Our very able Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Bob Rance, opened proceedings and we were almost immediately at the point where a presentation would be made. Our very own Chaplain has been a Mark Master Mason for over fifty years.

The Provincial Grand Master at this point went over to him, sat next to him, and encouraged him to regale us with stories of his early life as a jolly tar and his subsequent path to Mark Masonry. Only time curtailed the very humorous W.Bro. Frank Wilkes.

The latter, who was overwhelmed by the presentation of and receipt of his certificate, commented on its fine quality. And Frank won first prize in the raffle, a Bacardi presentation pack. What a great evening! What a privilege to be in the company of W.Bro. Frank Wilkes.

Article by Michael Fenech





A Warm Welcome from Richmond Lodge



In January, Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons was hoping to Advance another candidate into the Mark. Unfortunately, just before the meeting our candidate informed us that he had to self-isolate so he was unable to be with us. Not to be deterred we decided to rehearse the Ceremony of Advancement so that our Candidate would have an even better ceremony later in the year.



The afternoon started with a short Royal Ark Mariner meeting. As our Worshipful Commander was unable to be with us this was chaired by W.Bro. Tim Ford. Bro. James Walker was declared Worshipful Master and Tim Ford as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

We also successfully balloted for two joining members, W.Bros. Mike and Graham Ellis. After the accounts were presented, the Lodge was closed.

A Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Andrew Duck. We then successfully balloted for W.Bro. Graham Ellis as a joining member.

The Worshipful Master invited V.W.Bro. Chris Eley to act as Senior Deacon and W.Bro. Mike Ellis to act as Junior Deacon.

One of our visitors, Bro. Chris Hutchison, offered to act as Candidate. Bro. Chris was recently Advanced into a London Mark Lodge, and Richmond Mark was his third meeting since his Advancement.

The ceremony was performed in a most entertaining and enjoyable manner. W.Bro. Tim Ford ended the rehearsal by explaining the Signs and giving the Charge.

The Lodge was then closed, and the members of Richmond Lodge and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



Burns Night 2022

The Surrey Mark Masons Burns Night Charity Dinner in support of the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival Appeal was held at the Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, on Saturday 22nd January 2022.



The event was a sell out with 125 Brethren, their wives, family and friends, thoroughly enjoying the traditional Scottish fare and atmosphere. Diners came from far and wide across the Southern part of England, with many wearing the Kilt. The event was laid on by the Surrey Province of Mark Master Masons in conjunction with the Provincial Grand Lodge of the South Eastern Counties of the Royal Order of Scotland, whose Provincial Grand Master, Charles Stoddart, gave the Address to the Haggis.



The pipers were W.Bros. Chris Harris and Ralph Potter. The Immortal Memory was proposed by W.Bro. Ross Clark. The toast to the Lassies was proposed by W.Bro. Bill Caughie and the reply on behalf of the Lassies was given by Mrs Brid Hancock.



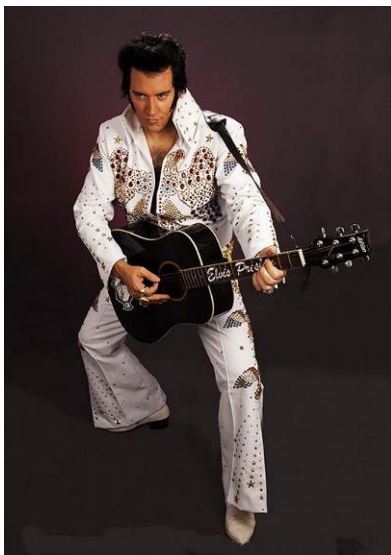
W.Bro. John French proposed the toast to the Surrey Province of Mark Master Masons which was replied to by our Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. Ian Clark. The Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland had already said enough while talking to a large overgrown sausage!!

The Charity Raffle was well supported, and the event raised a total of £2,500 for the Festival.

Many thanks to the Guildford Centre and all their staff for ensuring everyone had a most enjoyable evening.

Article by Charles Stoddart and Alan Brockwell. Photos by Alan Brockwell

Elvis lives again at the 2022 Cha Di Da



The 2022 Cha Di Da will be held on Saturday 29th October 2022 at the Reigate Manor Hotel. For entertainment we have an Elvis tribute singer, Craig Jefferson, followed by Jahson Nembhard, formerly of the Drifters.



Other News

A Presentation to Shannon Court

On Friday 28th January Worshipful Brother David Lawrence of Weald of Surrey Mark Lodge, and his wife Joanna, attended a presentation at Shannon Court of a high back electric wheelchair, and a lifting aid called a Sara Steady.



The equipment belonged to Joanna's late mother Sylvia Windsor who passed away on the 13th of January at home with Joanna and David by her side. Joanna and her sisters, Angie, and Barbara, wanted the nearly new items to help improve the quality of life of other folk who were suffering with mobility problems. With the close relationship that Sylvia's son in law, Worshipful Brother David, has with Shannon Court the sisters felt it would be the worthiest place to donate the items which had proved invaluable in the care of their mother in the past 3 years.

Steve Stace, Business Manager of Shannon Court, was delighted to receive the donation and said *"The donation of the wheelchair will make a real difference in enabling us to support residents that have been bed bound or unable to access the grounds of the home to have a better experience and quality of life. They will be able to experience the fine woodland walk and 9 acres of land that Shannon Court is set in. The RMBI and Shannon Court cannot thank you enough for the kind donation"*

With the up-and-coming project to enhance the already popular and much-loved woodland walk, Steve was already speculating on the number of residents who would now be able to experience the wonderful nature that surrounds their home.

Joanna and David hope that the equipment improves the quality of life for some of the Shannon Court residents and provides many happy memories for both residents and staff alike as they journey together around the beautiful setting of Shannon court.

Article by Joanna Lawrence

2021 AAC-AFA 'Top Gun' Dinner

The 6th Annual 'Top Gun' Dinner was held in the RAF Club, London on Friday 17th December 2021. As usual, it was organized and hosted by RAF Club member, and the Commanding Officer, Commr. Paul Fitzgerald.

Organizing this year's event caused difficulties due to the situation surrounding Covid-19 and its variant. However, despite this over a 100 folks booked in and raised £1,400 which was donated to the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) on whose behalf the function is held.

During dining the Commanding Officer (CO) performed 'Taking the Salute' with everyone by table (it is similar to 'Firing' in Masonry, a practice that devolved from the military). After the tables had been cleared, the CO proposed a toast to the 'Commanders-In-Chief' (President Biden and Queen Elizabeth II).

Our Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, then proposed the toast to the 'United States Air Force' and the 'Royal Air Force' and, in responding, the CO proposed the toast to the Mark MBF, during which he presented a cheque for £1,400 to the Provincial Grand Master of London Mark Master Masons, R.W. Bro. Tom Quinn. He in turn replied thanking everyone for their generous donation.

After giving a description of the what the MBF does, R.W.Bro. Tom then called up R.W.Bro. Ian and passed the cheque to him for allocation to the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival. R.W.Bro. Ian then offered his thanks to Tom and those present for this act of generosity in support of the Festival.

Thanks are due to Sgt. 'Trumpet Major' Adam Desborough, Kings Troop RHA, who played 'Reveille' then 'Boots and Saddles' and 'The Mess Call' before dining, and later afterwards 'Taps' followed by 'The Last Post' when all present stood to order while the CO took the Salute on behalf of all present to remember 'The Fallen' at the conclusion.

The CO sang 'The Last Salute' and this year for the first time, a 'Piper' was in attendance. Paul Burgess played a lament, 'Amazing Grace' after which, Paul brought the proceedings to a conclusion by playing 'Auld Lang Syne' with everyone joining in with the words, led by a genuine Scot, who else but... the Provincial Grand Master of London... aka... R.W. Bro. Tom!

Article by Paul Fitzgerald and photos by Bob Tuthill.



Festival News

The man who climbed Kilimanjaro is back!



At the time of going to print W.Bro. Kevin Woodward is planning to run the Hampton Court ½ Marathon on Sunday 20th March 2022. This was one of our last Opportunities to raise funds for the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival.

This is the only Half Marathon to be held at this famous and historic royal home. Hampton Court Palace is one of only two surviving palaces that King Henry VIII owned. The race starts inside the gates of Hampton Court Palace and finishes in its beautiful gardens.



For details of how to sponsor Keven see: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/festival-events-0029.html>

Super Prize Draw Raffle

Support the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival with our Super Prize Draw Raffle featuring great prizes.

Tickets are £1 each and are available to buy online at <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/2022-Prize-Draw> or in books of £5 which are available from Steve Jones, the Provincial Charity Representatives, Lodge Secretaries and Charity Stewards and other Brethren.



The fabulous prizes are:

First Prize

Two Night Stay at a 4 Star Copthorne Hotel with Dinner and Breakfast for two in any UK hotel outside London subject to availability. *Exclusions apply.*

Second Prize

A Rehoboam of Chivas Regal 12-year-old whisky (4.5 litres or six bottles), with pouring cradle and boxed.

Third Prize

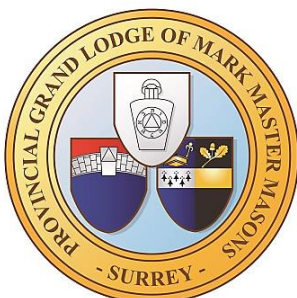
Two tickets to the England v India One Day Cricket International at the Oval on 12th July 2022.

Fourth Prize

Three course lunch for two with house wine at The French Table, Surbiton.

The Prize Draw will take place at the Annual Meeting at Croydon

Have you booked in yet?



The 2022 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held on Saturday 19th March 2022 at 10.45 at Croydon Masonic Hall.

Our Provincial Grand Master is looking forward to getting together with everyone in this, our Festival year.

Places are filling up so if you haven't booked yet visit page: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/agm-2022.html>